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## THE EXPLOSION AT ROME.

A magazine of powder, located in one of the new forts by which Rome is to be surrounded, blew up in April, and destroyed an immense amount of property, unroofed the chamber where the deputies were in session; shattered the glass of windows painted by ancient artists, toppled over and broke statues, and greatly injured St. Paul's and St. Peter's churches, destroying some things invaluable and irrecoverable, and killing and maiming many persons. But how much better to have suffered thus, than from the savage invasions that have so often ruined Rome, and the intestine wars that have desolated Italy. Indeed, the destruction is far less, and infinitely less shameful than a bombardment such as a war with the United States would make probable. "Enlightened" dynamite would make quicker and surer work on the dome of St. Peter's and amid the treasures of the Vatican in the nineteenth century, than the older and more barbarous methods of Goth and Vandal.

God bless King Humbert for his humanity to the wounded at Rome, and the families of those drowned at Gibraltar. Now let him suspend his fortifications, ~~reduce his army and navy, lessen his taxes, withdraw from~~ war-threatening alliances, and join commercial nations in promoting the peace of Italy and the world.

## THE CHILIAN EARTHQUAKES.

Many craters along that towering ridge of the Andes, which runs lengthwise of Chili, are said to be pouring forth fire, ashes, mud and lava, overflowing the fruitful fields and making them a desert. The navy of that strongest of South American military states, which so lately conquered Peru, is committing *hari kari*, disembowelling itself, and pouring its bombs into the doomed cities of the coast. Why add to the unavoidable disasters of nature the bloody, cruel deeds of men! Strange, unreasonable, wicked war! Better a thousand earthquakes.

## ONE LINK MISSING.

The Italian Government has a perfect right to demand a sacred regard on our part to treaty obligations. It has been truly said:

"While the treaty negotiated with Italy by Mr. Marsh in 1871 gave the promise of protection to Italians, the United States government is unable to fulfil this promise through the machinery of United States marshals, United States grand juries and United States courts, for the reason that one link in the chain of authority is lacking; namely, the act of Congress *giving these courts and their officers jurisdiction over cases of treaty violation.*"

Congress should enact such a law immediately. This is a specimen of this discrepancy in the codes of procedure in different nations, which emphasizes the need of an international code to which all should assent.

## A CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

This is a new step, and one in advance of all others hitherto taken. The Government of the United States will be solicited by the Peace Societies of America to invite all governments, with which it has diplomatic relations, to hold an international conference of official delegates during the Columbian Exposition, 1893. This conference, like the conference of the American States, popularly known as the "Pan-American" conference, if held, will consist of persons appointed by the governments which respond favorably to the invitation of the President.

The chief subject for consultation, discussion and recommendation to their several governments, will be some plan or plans by which

1. National laws may be harmonized and an international code constituted.

2. To consider and report on the feasibility of international treaties of arbitration and of extending the same to all civilized countries.

3. To recommend measures for the establishment of a high court or tribunal which shall sit permanently and to which shall be referred ultimately all causes of international difference, which cannot be adjusted by negotiations.

It will be seen that these plans propose a greater practical advance towards the solution of international problems and the establishment of international concord than any which have hitherto been in operation; also, that the United States is asked to lead the nations in the adoption of these practical measures for the prevention of war.

## HENRY CATFORD.

We learn with great regret that death, through congestion of the lungs, has deprived the London Peace Society of their valued Assistant-Secretary. Through many changes of late years, in the direction of the affairs of that important organization, Mr. Henry Catford was a permanent element of strength, through his intimate knowledge of its proceedings during a long period of time, through his untiring industry, his capacity for detail, and his conscientious zeal in the good cause. All visitors to the office in New Broad Street, who have had occasion to see him, appreciated his pleasant courtesy, his readiness to give information at a moment's notice, and business-like qualities. We heartily sympathize with Mr. Evans Darby and the Society in the loss of such a fellow worker; and with the cause itself, which loses a faithful and capable servant. We regret to learn that his large family is not very well off in this world's goods, however rich in the memory and example of a good man and a good father.—*Concord.*

Many kindly courtesies shown us during the last two seasons in London; much patience with a stranger and a foreigner, endeared Henry Catford to us personally. The Peace rooms will not seem themselves without his genial presence and untiring activities. May God comfort and care for the bereaved household.—*Ed.*